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Economic and environmental questions

Statement submitted by the International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996.

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The new Africa that's saying no to harmful policies

1. The International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization (IMSCO), on behalf of Africans in Africa and Africans in the Diaspora, two linked communities and natural trading partners, file these grievances and make the following suggestions for immediate changes in the way the United Nations Members, organs, donors and foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) function in African development affairs.

African grievances

2. United Nations policies do not promote economic and social (cultural) links with Africans through Africans or African business culture and institutions around the world. Africans, like Europeans and Asians, are natural trading partners, but they are denied the equal treatment and cooperation provided non-Africans. As a matter of policy, African NGOs are locked out of major funding by the United Nations and international donor institutions and agencies.

3. IMSCO, an African managed and operated NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, which was established to promote and help implement a business culture and social development and to help manage indigenous people by linking land, wealth and private business rights and affairs, does not receive cooperation from United Nations funding agencies when requested.

4. IMSCO calls on the United Nations and its Member States to stop promoting and funding the privatization of land and minerals and foreign businesses in Africa until full acknowledgement of the ownership rights and human rights of indigenous Africans in Africa and Africans in the Diaspora has been assured.

5. IMSCO calls the attention of the United Nations and all concerned to the recent decision by the Government and people of Zimbabwe to nationalize half the country's commercial farmland in 1997 to correct past crimes against Africans. This is a clear example of what Africa and the world will be faced with as a globally dispersed African community demands the return of all ancestral homelands, intellectual property, stolen art (e.g. the Rosetta Stone), mineral wealth, business culture, jobs and contracts needed to realize international business opportunities.

6. The constant change of direction by the United Nations and donors, the lack of African vision and loss of taxpayer dollars add to the problem facing African development efforts worldwide. This supports the African people's claim that the global African community's right to link and co-develop has been stolen by self-serving people and agencies within and outside the United Nations system. To this end, support for IMSCO aims within the United Nations system since it gained consultative status in 1995 has been hard to find or non-existent.

7. Repeated requests by IMSCO on behalf of its members and supporters to be involved in ongoing projects from the Secretary-General's office to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are depreciated and have been unsuccessful.

8. IMSCO is concerned to find the African private sector (NGOs) in the field throughout Africa and the African Diaspora often complaining of trying to build and link an African culture while being sabotaged and dictated to by rude foreigners in control of funding, projects and institutions designed more to enrich foreign aid workers and self-serving donors who often prevent Africans from reaching sustainable co-development. (For reference, see Graham Hancock, *Lords of Poverty*, (New York, The Atlantic Monthly Press, 1989)).

9. IMSCO and its supporters call upon the United Nations, its Members and special organs to expand development activities to include Africans living in the Diaspora (African-Americans) as matter of human rights. If the United Nations Member States do not include the African Diaspora in all areas of social, economic and political development when planning and budgeting, sustainable solutions will only end in conflict and failure. As in any developed foreign community, the linking Diaspora family, in this case African-Americans, can be the most reliable and dependable trading partner and political ally.

10. IMSCO members feel certain that the United Nations itself is not the overall problem; thus IMSCO requested NGO consultative status, supported by the United States of America in the Economic and Social Council in 1995. However, thousands of published pages of independent research (e.g. *Lords of Poverty*) do suggest that African private sector aims and objectives are being misguided and funds are being directed away from the intended purposes by non-African donors, agencies, managers and directors. This leaves IMSCO members agreeing with the United States of America and other United Nations Member States that the policies at the United Nations are not working for the good of the people who need them the most. Therefore funding should be withheld. IMSCO feels it is correct to say that some United Nations agencies and foreign NGOs contracted to carry out development policies and projects for

African people often sabotage African development for their own interests and economic gain. History suggests that only a member of the culture being developed can grow and advance that culture.

Solutions

11. On behalf of all Africans struggling to resettle in their homeland and to develop and link an African business culture, IMSCO strongly urges the United Nations to take immediate action to resolve the problems described above and suggests the following solutions:

(a) That an IMSCO business-culture development consultant mandated by the Economic and Social Council be included in any and all budgets and projects involving African social and economic development in order to ensure fairness and linkage with the global African community; that Africans in Africa and Africans in the Diaspora be hired and contracted before non-Africans on all projects involving African development (example: after the Second World War, in Japan, India and Europe, no African was shipped in to develop Japanese, Indian or European business culture);

(b) That the human rights of all African people be honoured when the question of land resettlement and ownership is addressed;

(c) That the United Nations, its Member States and donors withhold funding from any and all Governments, agencies, persons and institutions that do not comply with the request of African people to develop their own culture linked to Africans in the Diaspora;

(d) That the United Nations grant African private sector companies and NGOs the same economic, industrial and technological contributions it grants non-Africans;

(e) That the United Nations, its Members and organizations support IMSCO with the proper budget to strengthen its mandate and enable IMSCO to contact and assist African NGOs indigenous to Africa and the African Diaspora to obtain consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Conclusion

12. As a global people's NGO whose aims are social and economic and whose members specialize in all areas of development, IMSCO sees no reason why in 1998 most developing communities and people need to have foreigners dictate to them on how to grow an indigenous culture or to link with natural trading partners in the Diaspora. IMSCO members and supporters feel it is time for African people to take charge of their own development. IMSCO would like to remind the United Nations and the world that the people in the Republic of China are no worse off for taking their destiny into their own hands, and as a result, China today is a major success story.

Future outlook

13. Failure to include direct economic support to Africa through a business culture and institutions managed by Africans in Africa and the Diaspora and designed to achieve self-determination in all areas of development will increase instability between Africans and non-Africans throughout the world, possibly leading Africa to close many of its doors to non-allies, just as the Republic of China did successfully.

14. IMSCO looks forward to your cooperation.